

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-09 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-09 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-14

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SCI - MR. BLACKISTON (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057160

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, PBDR, IR, MU, JA

SUBJECT: ALLEGED IRANIAN- OMANI PLAN TO CONTROL SHIPPING
INTO PERSIAN GULF

REF: TEHRAN 1898

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KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

1. AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI MARCH 27 IN CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS MENTIONED TO US THAT SHAH HAD INFORMED HIM THAT GOI HAD NOT DISCUSSED ANY OF MATTERS REPORTED IN OTTAWAY WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE WITH GOVERNMENT OF OMAN. ZAHEDI SAID SHAH HAD NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH STRAITS OF HORMUZ WERE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO IRAN, IT RECOGNIZED THAT NAVIGATION THROUGH STRAITS WAS SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GOI WOULD DO NOTHING INCONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. THIS OF COURSE IS FOUR SQUARE WITH MFA COMMENTS TO YOU.
2. CONFUSING REFERENCE IN TEHRAN PRESS TO SOVIET REACTION PRESUMABLY RELATED TO OTTAWAY COMMENTS IN STRAITS ARTICLE. HE NOTED ALLEGED STRAITS CONTROL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MEET SOVIET OPCEPTEED BY ARRIVING POLICE CALLED BY PLANT EMPLOYEE . RESULTING GUNFIGHT WITH ARRIVING POLICE RESULTED IN SERIOUS INJURIES TO TWO POLICE WHO, HOWEVER, NOT CONSIDERED IN DANGER.
3. ARGENTINE NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA) REGARDS EPISODE AS ATTACK ON POLICE ATTACHMENT AND NOT ON PLANT, POINTING OUT THAT GROUP DID NOT ENTER REACTOR BUILDING ALTHOUGH IT COULD EASILY HAVE DONE SO. ATTACK WAS IN GENERAL PATTERN OF ERP AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUP ASSAULTS WHICH OFTEN DIRECTED AGAINST POLICE DETACHMENTS (ERP ATTACKS TOOK PLACE AGAINST TWO MORE POLICE POSTS THE FOLLOWING DAY), AND INVOLVE CAPTURE OF ARMS, OR AGAINST BANKS OR OTHER TARGETS WHERE MONEY AVAILABLE, BUT RARELY INVOLVE SABOTAGE PER SE. WHILE ATTACK ON ATUCHA STATION APPARENTLY INVOLVED NO INTENT TO DAMAGE STATION, LITTLE DOUBT THAT TARGET CHOSEN TO EMBARASS GOVERNMENT AND DERIVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY BY DEMONSTRATING TERRORIST ABILITY TO TAKE OVER PRESUMABLY WELL PROTECTED SITE.
4. ATUCHA STATION IS NOW IN FINAL STAGES OF PRESTARTUP TESTING AND BOTH NATURAL URANIUM REACTOR FUEL ELEMENTS AND HEAVY WATER ARE IN REACTOR BUILDING. HEAVY WATER IS IN LOCKED DEPOSITORY WITHIN BUILDING. FUEL ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN CHARGED TO REACTOR, BUT NOW IN PROCESS OF REMOVAL FOR MODIFICATION AS RESULT OF DISCOVERY OF FLOW VIBRATION PROBLEM. THIS AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING DESTRUCTION OF FUEL CHANNEL AS RESULT CARELESS PLACEMENT OF CLOSURE, WHICH IRONICALLY OCCURRED AFTER RECENT COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW INDICATED PROJECT WAS ON MOST RECENT SCHEDULE, WILL PROBABLY DELAY START- UP FOR SOME THREE MONTHS.
5. CNEA DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PLANNING SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION OF PLANT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THEY CONTEND THAT REACTOR ITSELF, DUE TO LIMITED ACCESS, EASY TO PROTECT, WHILE PLANT ENCLOSURE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROTECT FROM ATTACKS SUCH AS OCCURRED.

THEY DO NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT PRACTICAL STEPS HAVE BEEN
TAKEN TO CLOSE REACTOR BUILDING ACCESS DOORS IN EVENT OF FUTURE
ATTACK.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: SENV, IR, JA, MU
To: ABU DHABI
DHAHRAN
JIDDA
KUWAIT
LONDON
MANAMA
MOSCOW

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